

relocation and makes it at least possible for any city to do what little Green Bay, Wisconsin, has done: basically own their own team. But the NFL will not let that happen any more.

Any league which does not abide by these rules does not deserve the Federal antitrust broadcast exemption worth billions of dollars.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge giving fans a chance and making their communities a little more livable by providing them with the opportunity to control their own destiny not subject to the whim of some absentee billionaire.

ECONOMIC HEALTH AND NATIONAL SECURITY TIED TO STABILITY OF OUR DOMESTIC PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

(Mr. WATKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the House this morning to bring the attention to a grave matter, an economic crisis in the oil patch of this great Nation. I like for my colleagues to realize if there is not changes made within the next four months to five months, we will lose over 50 percent of our production for marginal wells in the United States of America. Marginal wells produce about 1.3 million barrels a day. How much is that? That is equivalent to what we import from the Arab countries.

But we are about to turn that market over to other foreign sources and put us more dependent, and rest assured, between now and July the 4th, when we have Independence Day, we will be more dependent on foreign governments than ever before in the history of our country. I do not think that is what we want.

Madam Speaker, I call on the Speaker to set up an energy task force, a crisis task force. Also we must have hearings this month, move on this, and also we must establish a national energy policy before our national security is totally at risk.

BRIDGE TO THE 21ST CENTURY MADE OUT OF BANANA PEELS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, our Trade Representative said, and I quote:

"We going to the mat."

The trade rep said they will ask the White House to impose strict tariffs and sanctions on European goods over bananas.

That is right, bananas. Think about it. While Uncle Sam is prepared to wage a trade war over bananas, 10,000

steelworkers, 10,000, are receiving unemployment compensation.

□ 1015

Your workers, my workers, standing in unemployment lines, losing their homes, losing their jobs, and the White House is roaring like a titmouse over bananas.

Beam me up, ladies and gentlemen. What has happened to this country? I yield back all the tanks, submarines, and certainly this new bridge to the 21st Century, that will be made now out of banana peels.

TAX CUTS—THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, it did not take long to find out what the major difference between Democrats and Republicans will be in this Congress: Tax cuts.

Republicans propose a 10 percent across-the-board tax cut, which the legislation of the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman KASICH) will do; and the Democrats, well, you guessed it, general tax relief is nowhere to be found. In fact, the President's budget will contain no middle class tax relief for another 15 years. And we all know what targeted tax cuts are. That is a euphemism for "you won't be getting one."

The current budget surplus, taxpayer overpayment, to be more accurate, should go back to the people that it belongs to in the first place, the taxpayers.

April 15 is not far away, and the tax man cometh. The tax man has been taking too much for too long, and then wasting too much of that for too long. It is time to give the middle class average taxpayers a break. It is time for a tax cut.

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, the Republicans are beginning the 106th Congress exactly where they left off in the 105th, and that is ignoring the will of the majority of the Americans.

If you recall, the Republican leadership in the House ended the 105th Congress by approving an \$80 billion tax break for the wealthiest Americans financed by raiding the Social Security surplus. As a result, the Democrats picked up 5 seats in the November election.

But, believe it or not, the Republicans are still not listening. Instead of

directing the surplus to Social Security and Medicare, the Republicans are proposing a 10 percent tax cut which will do virtually nothing for 45 million American families. Under the Republican plan, the average annual tax cut for 60 percent of tax payers would be about \$100. Those earning more than \$300,000 though would receive an average tax cut of \$20,000.

I urge my Republican colleagues to listen to the American people. Read the writing on the wall and stop wasting time with a recycled plan to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy with money that should be used to strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

THE RETURN OF BIG GOVERNMENT

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Madam Speaker, today we gather in this House, we have things pretty good; but sometimes when things are too rosy, we lose track of where we are headed, and maybe what we ought to be looking at.

The surplus is certainly something that we are glad to have, and I think that Members of this body who have supported good policy over the last few years can take credit for that.

But in the President's address, I think something that is so badly needed that was lacking was how are we going to pay off the debt? The President's address should be entitled, "The Return of Big Government." He declared the era of big government over just a couple of years ago, and now he is back with guns blazing: The return of big government.

We need to save Social Security, we need to reduce the debt, and we need to return to the American taxpayers some of the overpayment they are making.

PUTTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE FIRST

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STABENOW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge our Republican colleagues to join with us in putting Social Security and Medicare first. We have come together to balance the budget, and we now have an extraordinary opportunity to take the next step in fiscal responsibility and make sure that our children and our grandchildren are protected for the future.

We need to make sure that Social Security and Medicare are protected first, and then we as Democrats will join and in fact lead the fight for tax cuts for middle class families. But, first and foremost, we need to pay down the debt and protect Social Security and Medicare.